

## Message Text

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21

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 /081 W

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R 301618Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8044

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 9588

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR UNSC WA BE

SUBJECT: SWAPO DLEGATION IN BELGIUM

REF: A. USUN 4017 B. THE HAGUE 5276

1. FOREIGN MINISTRY AFRICAN DESK OFFICER (VERKAMMEN)TOLD  
US THAT THREE-MAN DELEGATION FROM SOUTHWEST AFRICAN PEOPLES  
ORGANIZATION - SWAPO (MUYONGO, KATJAVIVI AND MURSHIHANGA)  
VISITED BRUSSELS AND MET WITH FOREIGN MINISTER VAN ELSLANDE  
ON SEPTEMBER 21 BEFORE PROCEEDING ON TO THE HAGUE.

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2. VERKAMMEN TOLD US THAT IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION FROM THE FOREIGN MINISTER, THE SWAPO LEADERS SAID THAT SWAPO WILLING TO ATTEND A GENEVA CONFERENCE ON SOLUTION TO SOUTHWEST AFRICA PROBLEM AND MEET WITH ALL PARTIES, INCLUDING REPRESENTATIVES OF OTHER NAMIBIAN GROUPS AND SOUTH AFRICANS, AS LONG AS FOLLOWING PRE-CONDITIONS ARE MET:

A. SWAPO MUST BE A "FULL PARTY" AT SUCH A CONFERENCE AND BE ABLE TO "NEGOTIATE DIRECTLY" WITH SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT THERE. SWAPO LEADERS HAD HEARD RUMOR TO EFFECT THAT PRIME MINISTER VORSTER WAS ONLY WILLING TO HAVE THEM IN CITY OF GENEVA IN A HOTEL, AVAILABLE FOR CONSULTATION BUT NOT MEMBER OF CONFERENCE.

B. SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT MUST MAKE "IMPORTANT GESTURE" AS SIGN THAT IT IS SERIOUS ABOUT NEGOTIATIONS OF FUTURE OF SOUTHWEST AFRICA. SWAPO REPRESENTATIVES SAID THAT SOUTH AFRICAN RELEASE OF "SOME" NAMIBIAN POLITICAL PRISONERS WOULD CONSTITUTE SUCH A GESTURE.

3. VERKAMMEN SAID SWAPO LEADERS TOLD FOREIGN MINISTER THAT THEY WERE NOT OPTIMISTIC ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR NEGOTIATED SOLUTION LEADING TO FREE ELECTIONS, CITING AS REASONS SOUTH AFRICA'S HISTORIC INTRANSIGENCE AS WELL AS DIFFICULTY CHANGING POST-WINDHOEK CONFERENCE MACHINERY CURRENTLY IN MOTION. THEY WARNED THAT IMPLEMENTATION BY SOUTH AFRICA OF WINDHOEK CONFERENCE PROVISIONS WOULD LEAD TO CIVIL WAR.

4. VERKAMMEN SAID THAT FOREIGN MINISTER VAN ELSLANDE TOLD SWAPO LEADERS THAT BELGIUM SUPPORTED INCLUSION OF SWAPO IN ANY NEGOTIATIONS ON FUTURE OF SOUTHWEST AFRICA. VERKAMMEN SAID SWAPO LEADERS EMPHASIZED THAT THEIR MOVEMENT SEEKS "DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY IN NAMIBIA WHERE WHITE AND BLACK CAN LIVE TOGETHER IN COMPLETE FREEDOM." THEY ALSO TOLD FOREIGN MINISTER THAT INDEPENDENT NAMIBIA WOULD IMMEDIATELY SEEK RELATIONSHIP WITH EC WITHIN LOME CONVENTION FRAMEWORK. VERKAMMEN SAID BELGIANS FOUND SWAPO LEADERS "GIVING GENERAL CONFIDENTIAL

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IMPRESSION OF MODERATION" BUT HE CAUTIONED THAT THEY HAD NEVER DEALT WITH SWAPO BEFORE AND HAD NO BASIS FOR COMPARISON.

5. COMMENT: WE DETECT A MORE MODERATE POSITION AND TONE IN SWAPO PRIVATE DISCUSSIONS HERE AND IN THE HAGUE THAN IN MORE EXTREME, STRIDENT SWAPO INTERVENTION AT SEPTEMBER 28 UN SECURITY COUNCIL

MEETING.FIRESTONE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, VISITS, LIBERATION FRONTS, NEGOTIATIONS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 30 SEP 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ElyME  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Executive Order:** GS  
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**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SWAPO DLEGATION IN BELGIUM  
**TAGS:** PFOR, WA, BE, UNSC, SWAPO  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006